

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

United States, April 4, 1792.

Sir: You will lay before the House of Representatives such papers from your Department, as are requested by the enclosed Resolution.⁴¹

N.B. The papers alluded to are such as relate to the expedition under Genl. St. Clair.⁴²

41. The resolution was one of the select committee of the House, which had been appointed March 27 to investigate the causes of St. Clair's defeat, with power to call for any papers necessary. This committee had requested from Knox, direct, all the papers connected with St. Clair's expedition and, before complying, Knox had laid the matter before the President for his approval. The President laid the matter before a meeting (March 31) of his Cabinet Members, consisting of Hamilton, Knox, Jefferson, and Randolph. "The President said he had called us to consult, merely because it was the first example, and he wished that so far as it shd. become a precedent, it should be rightly conducted. He neither acknowledged nor denied, nor even doubted the propriety of what the house was doing. ..." On April 2 the Cabinet met on the same subject "We ... were of one mind. 1. that the house was an inquest, and therefore might institute inquiries. 2. that they might call for papers generally. 3. that the Executive ought to communicate such papers as the public good would permit, and ought to refuse those the disclosure of which would injure the public. Consequently were to exercise a discretion. 4. that neither the commee nor House had a right to call on the head of a deptmt, who and whose papers were under the Presidt. alone, but that the commee shd instruct their chairman to move

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the house to address the President.” From Jefferson's *Anas*, as printed in *Jefferson's Writings* (P. L. Ford, Federal edition, New York: 1904), vol. 2, pp. 213–214.

42. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, May 21, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have received your letters of the 12th and 15th insts. with their enclosures.

From the tenor of Mr. Seagrove's⁵ letter I am in hopes that the business of running the line &c. will be amicably accomplished, notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances which have occurred. When I passed through George Town, Mr. Ellicott⁶ informed me, that a letter

5. James Seagrove.

6. Andrew Ellicott.

from his brother,⁷ dated at the Rock Landing, the 19th of April, gave unfavourable intelligence of the business; that two Indians having been detected in stealing horses at Green Court-House, one was killed, and the other so severely whipped as to have died in consequence of it; that a party of the Cowettas (to whose tribe these Indians belonged) had taken revenge by killing two white men; that the Chiefs of the Nation had sent Orders to the Rock landing for such of the Indians as might have assembled there to return home, and that a party which had arrived at that place had actually gone back, and further observed, that from the appearance of things he did not believe the line would be run.⁸

The letter from Mr. Seagrove being dated two days after that from Ellicott and giving a more favorable complexion to the matter than his, I am in hopes that our affairs in that quarter will yet come to an amicable and mutually agreeable conclusion.

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I am pleased with the intelligence contained in your letter of the 15th with respect to the information received from Governor Blount⁹ and from Major Hamtramck.¹⁰ I trust that the arrival of the Bloody fellow, and other Cherokees in their

7. Joseph Ellicott.

8. The line between Georgia and the Creek country.

9. Gov. William Blount, of the Territory of Tennessee. He was also, at the same time, superintendent of the affairs of the southern Indians.

10. Maj. John Francis Hamtramck of the First U.S. Infantry.

nation will have been attended with good effects towards the interest of the United States.

I most sincerely hope that the communications from Major Hamtramck may be a prelude to a general peace with the hostile Indians, and I cannot help thinking that it carries with it that appearance.

I intend setting out for Philadelphia on Thursday next; shall stop one day in George Town, and proceed on from thence as expeditiously as my horses (some of which got foundered and lame on the journey to this place and have not yet recovered) will permit me to do. With sincere regard etc.¹¹

11. From a copy by Tobias Lear.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, August 1, 1792.

Sir: Your dispatches of the 14th. and 21. Ult. came duly to hand, and it is probable the Servt. who carries this letter to the Post Office, will bring me a third of this weeks date.

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I did not acknowledge the receipt of the first letter at an earlier date, because there was nothing contained in it, which required a reply. And I am too little acquainted with the Authority under which Colo. Henry Kerr detached Lt. Colo. Philips,⁹³ the cause, or the object of that detachment, to form so good an opinion of the propriety of the *measure* as it is easy for me to predict the probable consequences of it. I hope Major Gaither⁹⁴ has before this, embarked for that quarter, strongly impressed with the views of the general Government, and the disposition of it to *preserve peace*) if it can be done upon just and honorable grounds).

The tranquillity, which (by your last accts. handed to me) prevails on our No. Western frontiers gives me much satisfaction and affords a pleasing prospect that the exertions of government to bring the hostile Indian tribes into a pacific mood will not have been exercised in vain. This, however, is not to relax any preparation for a contrary event. Proceed as if war was inevi

93. The names of Col. Henry Kerr and Lieutenant Colonel Philips do not appear on the later pay rolls of Wayne's expedition.

94. Maj. Henry Gaither. He ranked as a lieutenant colonel, later, on Wayne's expedition.

table: but do it, I entreat you, with all the œconomy which can result from system and good regulations. Our finances call for it, and if these did not, our reputation does. The supplies of an Army through so long and rugged a land transportation must, under the best management, be expensive; our attention, therefore ought to be proportionate; and that I may form some ideas of the former I desire you would report to me the regulations which you have adopted for providing, forwarding, and issuing of them, and the mode of having them accounted for to the departt. of War. I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury for similar information on these points so far as any of them may come within the purview of his department. Re-iterate, in your letters to Genl. Wayne, the necessity of employing the prest. calm in disciplining, and training the troops under his command for the peculiar

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service for which they are destined. He is not to be sparing of Powder and lead (in proper and reasonable quantities) to make the Soldiers marksmen.

There is no propriety that I can perceive in giving the Rank of Brigr. to Majr. Sargent;⁹⁵ nor do I conceive that Genl. Wilkenson son would, or indeed ought, to relinquish his present Commd. I have turned this mattr. in my thoughts but as yet have not been able to hit upon a character to my mind for the Office of Adjutant General. I will think again, and again on the subject, and will inform you of the result.

So long as the vice of drunkenness exists in the Army so long I hope, Ejections of

95. Maj. Winthrop Sargent.

those Officers who are found guilty of it will continue; for that and gaming will debilitate and render unfit for active service any Army whatsoever. I am &c.

P.S. Would Majr. Fish⁹⁶ accept the appointment of Adjutt. General with the Rank of Lieutt. Colo.? He strikes me as an eligible character. Colo. Posey⁹⁷ also (who wants to be employed) might if ready at his pen make a good one, for in other respects (and I do not know that he is deficient in this) he is said to be an excellent Officer.

96. Maj. Nicholas Fish.

97. Col. Thomas Posey.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1792.

Sir: Since writing to you on the 1st. instr. your letters of the 28th. and 31st. of July have come to hand. The latter, containing an acct. of the fate of Majr. Trueman,³ fills me with deep concern. The circumstances with which it is related (unless fabricated to answer

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some purpose to us unknown) will not allow one to doubt the fact. Nor do the Accounts from the Southward wear a much more agreeable aspect. Every exertion therefore on the part of the Government must be used to avert the evils of war which seem to be impending and if these are found to be impracticable then to meet the event with firmness and resolution as a mean to which I hope the recruiting Officers will double their diligence to obtain the men and their vigilance to prevent desertion. The latter is shameful, and call for vigorous pursuits and exemplary punishments.

3. Maj. Alexander Trueman, of the First U.S. Infantry, and his companions had been murdered by the Indians.

I hope and do earnestly exhort, the utmost attention on the part of General Wayne and the Officers under him, to fit the men for the Service they are intended. It is indispensably necessary; and I beseech you to suffer no delay in forwarding the supplies which are necessary for the Army.

I wish Governor Blount may have been able to terminate the Conferences, which he was to have had at Nashville about the 25th. of last month with the Cherokees, Chickasaws and Choctaws to the mutual advantage and satisfaction of all the parties concerned, but the difficulty of deciding between lawless settlers and greedy (land) Speculators on one side, and the jealousies of the Indian Nations and their banditti on the other, becomes more and more obvious every day; and these, from the interference of the Spaniards (if the reports we have be true) and other causes wch. are too evident to require specification add not a little to our embarrassments.

I flatter myself, Governor St. Clair will not forget that there are duties which require his attention in the Territory committed to his care although his presence at the trial of Ensign Morgan⁴ may not be necessary or proper. But, if an important lawsuit claims his attendance in the State of Pennsylvania in September and it can be dispensed with in his Government, I would not wish to deprive him of the advantage

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4. Ensign John Morgan, of the First U.S. Infantry.

of being present at the trial.

The enclosed letter from People stiling themselves Oneidas or Onondagas came to my hands on friday last. It may not be amiss to make some enquiry into the matter. for oftentimes, it is more easy to prevent an evil, than to redress it after it has happened. I am &c.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1792.

Sir: My last to you was dated the 5th. instt. since which I have received your letters of the 4th. 5th. and 7th.; and shall reply to such parts of them as appear to require it.

It is painful to find the recruiting Service advancing so slowly as your last letters indicate. Endeavor to rouse the officers who are engaged in this business, to fresh exertions. The unhappy fate of our messengers¹¹ is a lamentable proof of Indian barbarity, and a strong evidence of the bad dispositions of at least some of their tribes. This ought to stimulate every nerve to prepare for the worst.

If the banditti, which made the successful stroke on the Station at Nashville could become at without involving disagreeable consequences with the tribes to which they respectively belong, an attempt to cut them off ought by all means to be encouraged; an enterprize judiciously concerted, and spiritedly executed would be less expensive to the General government than keeping up guards of Militia which will always be eluded in the attack, and never be overtaken in a pursuit.

No measures should be left unessayed to treat with the Wabash Indians; nor can the Goods be better applied

11. The murder of Maj. Alexander Trueman and Brig. Gen. John Hardin.

than in effectuating this desirable purpose; but I think a person of more dignified character than Major Hamtranck should be employed in the negotiation. No idea of purchasing land from them ought to be admitted; for no treaty, or other communications with the Indians have ever been satisfactory to them when this has been the subject. The principles, and general out lines of all these treaties ought to be given to the Negotiator, notwithstanding the right of disannulling is reserved to the Government. Illiterate people are not easily made sensible of the propriety, or policy of giving a power, and rejecting what is done under it. These may be contained in Genl. Putnams¹²

General Putnam merits thanks, in my opinion, for his plan, and the sentiments he has delivered on what he conceives to be a proper mode of carrying on the War against the hostile Nations of Indians, and I wish he would continue to furnish them, without reserve in future. But in the present instance, two reasons are so strongly opposed to the measure recommended by him as to render it unadvisable and dangerous one of which, the collision it might occasion, and the consequences thereof, in the pending negotiation with G. Britain he could not be acquainted with; the other, the inadequacy of our force to admit a division, and thereby running the hazard of being beaten in detail by encountering the enemies *whole* strength with part of our own are such as not to be overcome. The other reasons assigned by you are not without weight, but less in degree; for Peace

12. Gen. Rufus Putnam.

and War are now in balance which will preponderate remains to be known; if the latter (which heaven avert) we must expect to encounter a powerful confederacy, and ought not to put any thing to hazard which can be avoided by military foresight.

I can form no judgment of the object or propriety of establishing the Post on the Muskingham, mentioned in Genl Putnams letter to you of the 9th. of July, as no copy of

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that letter has been sent to me; equally unable am I to give any opinion on the Speeches and wishes of Fish Carrier, as I know not the contents of them; 20 copies having accompanied the letter of General Capin.¹³

General Wilkinson has displayed great zeal and ability for the public weal since he came into Service. His conduct carries strong marks of attention, activity and spirit, and I wish him to know the favorable light in which it is viewed. With great esteem I am etc.

13. Israel Chapin. He was agent to the Five Nations and was then at Canandaigua.

On August 13 Washington wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury a routine note in which the following occurs: "It is pleasing to find by the Letter from our Commissioners at Amsterdam, that the credit of the United States remains upon so respectable a footing in the United Netherlands." This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Paper*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, August 15, 1792.

Sir: This morning your letter of the 11th. came to hand, but I have not as yet had time to read, much less to consider, the enclosures therein contained.

Mr. Seagrove's¹⁴ dispatches of the 5th. ulto. enclosing a packet for you, were received at the same time; and about noon his other Letter, of the 27th. was brought to me by Express. The whole, as well those addressed to me, as the others directed to you, are sent forward under cover with this letter by the Express who brought the last.

The extreme and dangerous illness of my Nephew (Major Washington, who has an affection of the Lungs, and for the last two or three days a violent and copious discharge of pure blood from them, by which he is so reduced as to be almost unable to speak) together with the Letters and voluminous references accompanying them, places it out of

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my power at this moment to pass any sentiment upon Mr. Seagrove's Dispatches, by the bearer; but as far as my Memory and short notes will enable me to recollect the contents of them, it shall be done by the Post on Monday.

My reason for forwarding them without delay, is, that you may, previous to the receipt of any sentiments of mine, give the several matters contained in these despatches and his former communications, the consideration they merit from a comprehensive and comparative view of the whole

14. James Seagrove.

subject; and, as some parts of it are of an important and delicate nature, it is my request that the Secretary of the Treasury would also consider them attentively; that the proceedings thereon, and answers thereto, may be the result of our joint and deliberate thoughts. If the Secry. of State had been in Philada. I should have called upon him also; for if things be as they are stated in Mr. Seagoves's Letters and the enclosures accompanying them, our affairs in that quarter are critically situated, as they respect the State of Georgia and the southern Indians, and the Ud. States and the Spaniards.

At present, however, I shall add nothing further on these topics; and with respect to your writing (as submitted in your letter of the 11th.) to the *Governor* of Nw. York concerning the complaint exhibited by the Oneidas or Onandagos (I am not certain wch.) against a trader that had been obtruded upon them; and committing the matter, and the regulation of the Trade with the first of these tribes, to the Govr. of that State; I desire you to do in the premises as shall appear best under a full view of the circumstances, and the Laws relating to the arrangement of the intercourse with the Indians; for at present they are not enough in my mind to enable me to give any precise directions concerning the reference.

Who is Mr. Rosecrantz? And under what authority has he attended the councils of the Indians at Buffalo

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Creek? Subordinate interferences must be absolutely interdicted, or counteraction of the measures of Governmt, perplexity and confusion will inevitably ensue. No person should presume to speak to the Indians on business of a public nature except those who derive their Authority and receive their instructions from the War Office for that purpose. With esteem and regard, I am &c.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, August 19, 1792.

Sir: In my letter of the 15th. I promised you my sentiments on Mr. Seagroves communications; and though I am not enabled to do it so fully as I could wish, I shall nevertheless give them as fully as I can.

His letters, and the enclosures therein contained. With the evidence in support, go to points, which may be classed under Six heads.

1st. Spanish interference, to prevent the treaty between the United States and the Creek Nation from being carried into effect. To accomplish which, these Indians, together with the Cherokees, Chicasaws and Choctaws, are envited to a grand Council at Pensacola; where, if they will attend, it is intimated to them, they shall be furnished with Arms, Ammunition, and goods of all sorts. An Agent of Spain, (a Capt. Oliver)¹⁵ who is established at little Tallassee in the Creek Nation, and supposed to be acting in concert with McGillivray, has *forbid* their running the line that was established by treaty with these people; promising them the support of Spain against any measures which may be pursued by the U. States, in case of their refusal. And in a word, aided by McGillivray and Panton,¹⁶ is stimulating *all* the Southern Indians to acts of hostilities against the United States; to facilitate which he is distributing goods,

15. Pedro or Pierre Olivier.

16. William Panton, a Pensacola trader.

and holding talks with the chiefs. Three things, it is said, will be attempted at the proposed meeting at Pensacola: 1st. to establish Posts in the Indian Country. 2d. To fix three Agents amongst them, of whom McGillivray is to be the principal; and 3d. to exclude the Citizens of the United States from having any trade with these Indians. To carry the whole of this plan into effect, it is further said that five Regimts. of about 600 men each and a large quantity of Ordnance and Stores are actually arrived from old Spain, and the like number of Troops are expected from the Havanna; and suspns. are alive, that the Capture of Bowles,¹⁷ was a preconcerted scheme between the Spanh. Govr. and himself.

2d. The turbulent disposition of the Settlers on the Western frontier of Georgia, and their endeavors (as appear by the declaration of Colo. Alexander, and others which could be adduced), to oppose the measures of the General Government; and to bring on a War between the United States and the Creek Nation; with the nefarious means practiced by them to accomplish this project and the effect it has had upon the latter; who are affraid, though generally well-disposed towards the U. States and in all their public talks have given strong assurances of their intention to execute the treaty, to meet at the Rock landing on the Oconee in the vicinity of these characters.

3d. His conditional engagement to meet the lower Creeks on the head of St. Mary's River in November next. His opinion that with more extensive powers, and a larger field to display in, he should be able,

17. Bowles was seized by McGillivray. McGillivray turned him over to the Spanish, who sent him to Spain.

not only to counteract the unprovoked inteference of the Spaniards by keeping the Indians in our Interest, but could even engage them to Act for us, if circumstances should make it desirable; but to do this he must be furnished with goods, and be authorised to distribute

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them as occasions should require. That but for his endeavors to support the authority of McGillivray, and to reinstate him in the good opinion of his Nation who began to see into his views, and nine tenths of it to dispise him, this might have been in a more progressive state, than it is at present.

4th. The necessity of restricting the licenses of Traders, and passes to people of other descriptions; who, under various pretences (but oftentimes with bad intentions) go into the Indian Villages. And of the expediency, and the advantages which would result, from having proper forms for both, with checks to prevent counterfeits and impositions on the Indians.

5th. The probable consequence of a severe drought, to the Indians, and the policy of relieving them from impending famine.

6th. The intemperance of Major Call.¹⁸ His improper conduct in raising three troops of horse with promise of paymt. from the Genl. Government; leaving a party on the So. Western frontier of Georgia without an Officer, or even a Sergeant. And the Agents opinion of the necessity of a respectable force on the So. Western frontier

18. Maj. Richard Call, of the First Regiment of Infantry.

of that State and the little use of them in their present Stations.

These heads, as well as I can recollect, contain the substance of Mr. Seagroves communications on which I give the following sentiments and observations.

1st. The conduct of Spain in this business is so unprovoked (by any event that has come to my knowledge), so misterious, and so hostile in appearance, that although the evidence is strong, and corroborated by a variety of information through a variety of channels, and even confirmed by McGillivray himself, yet the mind can scarcely realise a proceedure so base and inhuman as the encouraging (not only without the exhibition of complaint, but

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under professions of good neighbourhood and friendship towards us) a war which must expose helpless women and children to the relentless fury of Savages, and to the cruelties of the Tomahawk and Scalping-knife. But the evidence of their intrigues to set aside the treaty, to exclude the U. States from having trade or intercourse with the Southern Indians, will scarcely admit of a doubt; and there is but too much reason to suspect that McGillivray has an agency in promoting these measures.

My opinion therefore is, that the Commissioners of Spain, in Philadelphia, shd. be informed, delicately, and perhaps informally (until matters can be more fully investigated, or developed) that though we are ready to acquit the Spanish *government* of measures so unfriendly to the U. States, yet that the evidence of these proceedings

in some of its Officers, is too strong to admit of a doubt. and of too important a nature to pass over in silence. That it creates serious alarms in the minds of our Citizens in the Southern quarter, and gives much trouble to the Government of the U. States; which has no views incompatible with good faith towards Spain, and with justice and honor towards the Indns.

Something to this effect was written, or spoken to these Gentlemen by the Secretary of State on the first representation of this matter from the Southern Agent for Indian Affairs; but what notice was taken of it by them, or whether any, I do not recollect to have been informed. Enquiry, however, should be made; but whether documents respecting it are to be found in his Office, or are deposited among the private transactions in his own keeping, is uncertain: in the latter case no information can be obtained in time.

2d. My opinion on this head is, that Governor Telfair should be written to, and informed in delicate, but in firm and unequivocal terms: That the United States from a concatenation of causes, are so delicately circumstanced as to render Peace in the Southern quarter indispensably necessary, if it be possible to preserve it upon just, and honorable terms. That Government has received information unequivocal in its nature,

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of designs in some of the frontier Inhabitants of Georgia, not only to *impede* , but absolutely to *oppose* running the line which was agreed upon as a boundary between that State and the Creeks; and, of conduct in some of them, tending to provoke war, rather than to promote peace with these Indians. That it was (and subsequent events have proved it) with great difficulty the boundary then agreed on could be obtained. That now it has become a law of the Land; and if the Indians can be prevailed on to carry it into execution it must be enforced. And lastly, to exhort him, by every motive to peace and good order, that he would use his influence and address to repress all turbulent and illegal proceedings in this behalf, as the consequences cannot fail to be distressing from a contrary conduct.

3d. Although the opinions, and propositions of the Southern Agent ought, in this case, to be received with a due degree of caution, inasmuch as he is removing the theatre of action from Rock landing to his own (or brothers store) at the head of the St. Marys, covering thereby that frontier, where his interest is more immediately affected; building his own consequence upon the ruins of another as occasion and circumstances may require. Acquiring a power to distribute goods (which, tho' limited, and issued under certn. restrictions, may nevertheless be abused). Investing him with more ample power to act from the circumstances of the moment; I say, notwithstanding the liability of abuse in

some, or all of these cases; I am of opinion from the circumstances which exist, and press, and from the delay which would result from references at the distance He is from the seat of the Government, that he ought, as far as I have the power to give them, to be instructed

To-hold a meeting with the Indian *Chiefs* at the time and place mentioned in his letter of the 27th. ulto. and,

That he should, under defined restrictions, have authority given him, to distribute goods as circumstances, and his own judgment shall dictate.

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That he ought to counteract the nefarious schemes of Spain by all the influence and address he is master of.

That if, upon further, and more unequivocal proof, McGillivrays duplicity and treachery should appear more evident; that he is, in that case, to destroy, as far as it is in his power, the consequence of that man in the Creek nation; and, as the most effectual step towards it, and serving the U: States, to take, if he can, his place in the Nation.

4th. The propriety of this restrictive proposition is apparent, but to draw the line is difficult. To vest it *solely* (which I believe wd. be the least evil) with the Indian agents, wd. encrease their consequence amazingly, and would, in a manr, give them, if they are indirectly engaged in Trade, a monopoly thereof; and all other

intercourse with the Indians: and in the instance before us, would create much jealousy and disgust in the Executive of the State of Georgia. Under this impression of my sentiments, decide as shall appear best, upon a full view of the case. The idea of an engraving with the proposed check, to prevent counterfeit passes and impositions, is a good thought, and merits adoption.

5th. If the Indians should be reduced to the deplorable State which is apprehended, by an Act of Providence which human foresight is unable to avert; It is my opinion that we ought, if they exhibit signs of good dispositions towards us, as well from motives of policy as those of humanity, to afford them relief. But the power of the Executive to do this, the state of the treasury, the extent of the evil, and the consequences of giving to one nation and not to all, if it should be asked, are matters to be considered before any explicit assurance is given, that Supplies will be granted.

6th. There can be no doubt of the propriety of bringing Major Call before a Genl. Court Martial for his intemperate conduct, for authorising the raising of three troops of Horse at the expence of the Union (unless as commanding officer he was instructed or empowered

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to do it; of which I have no recollection), and for leaving a party of Soldiers on the So. Westn. frontier without an Officer, or even a sergeant to comd. and provide for them.

As to the necessity of having a respectable force on the South Western frontier of Georgia, and of the little use of those on the more western part of the State no reasons are assigned for either, by which a judgment can be formed; and havg. no accurate map of that Country with me, I am unable to give any other sentimt. on either of these points, than that (for the reason which has been given under another hd.) this measure should be decided on with cautn.

I do not give these opinions, or any one of them as decisive, or as directions to be implicitly followed; because that would render deliberation, and the request contained in my letter of the 15th, nugatory. They are given as crude and undigested first thoughts, only; to be closely examined, compared and combined with other information which may be found in the public Offices, and the letters and Instructions, draughted accordingly.

Let these (except the communication if any to the Comrs. of Spain) pass through my hands unsealed. I am persuaded there will be no delay on acct. of disapprobation, and consequent alterations. The Express not expecting (as he says) to have proceeded further than Mount Vernon, will want a supply of money to take him back, to be accounted for with the Indian Agent. He has already received two guineas from me.

I presume Mr. Seagrove would wish to be placed upon some more permanent establishment with respect to his pay; but if there be any doubt of my power to fix this, and to render his Office more stable, matters (with assurances that his Services will neither pass unnoticed, or unrewarded) must remain as they are until the meeting of Congress: and as he appears to have acted with zeal and intelligence, he ought to be informed of the satisfaction his conduct has given; and to be requested in a particular, and pointed manner, to have someone or more persons in whom entire confidence can be placed (as well in their abilities, as fidelity) to attend the meeting at Pensacola, to watch the motions

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of Oliver, and to be informed precisely and accurately, of the Spanish movements in both East and West Florida. Money (reasonably bestowed) must not be spared to accomplish these objects.

What is become of the Surveyor Ellicott, and what is proper to be done with him? he ought not to be retained in that Country at a *certain* expence, awaiting a very *uncertain* event.

I did not think of it when I was writing my letter of the 15th. but now request, that the Attorney General may be called on to aid with his sentiments in the several matters which are referred for your consideration and decision.

Not having thought of any character more eligible for Adjutant General than Majr. Fish, I request that

he may be sounded, or even directly applied to. Should he be indisposed to the Office, some other must be appointed without delay. With esteem and regard I am &c.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, August 22, 1792.

Dear Sir: In my letter of the 15th. I acknowledged the receipt of yours of the 11th.; since which your dispatches of the 16th. are come to hand, and convey but a gloomy prospect of peace with the Indians, in either hemisphere, but show the necessity of preparing more vigorously if possible for the dernier resort. That the Western Indians are stimulated to acts of hostility on one side, and every mean which can be devised to set aside the treaties wch. exist between the Southern Indians and the U. States, and to encourage the former to break with us on the other admits of no doubt in my mind; and that it may be a concerted plan between certn. Powers to check the growth of this rising Country, is far from improbable, diabolical as it may seem.

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The enclosure of Genl. Putnams letter of the 9th. of July, enables me (which I could not do before) to form some idea of his proposition to establish a Post on the Muskingham; and, though I shall give no decided opinion on *this* particular case, my sentiments, generally, with respect to Posts, are not changed, and are shortly these, that except for the preservation of Stores, and the security of convoys upon a communin. they are of no use but to protect the people within them; for unless the Garrison is of such strength, and can detach in such force, as to bid defiance to the enemy it is always cooped up. Except for the purposes I have mentioned, of what advantage are Forts Hamilton, St. Clair and Jefferson? The strength of Stationary parties are soon discovered by the Indians and when discovered, are liable to be cut off, unless they confine themselves *solely* to the defence of the Post; and of what avail would this be on the Muskingham or elsewhere? Posts can be insulted or avoided at the option of the enemy in a covered Country; but the best vigilance of the most cautious Enemy cannot prevent scouting parties falling on their trail. Besides we shall never be respectable at any point if the Troops are divided, and subdivided for the quietude of particular settlements or neighbourhoods: nor will they ever be disciplined, and under due subordination whilst they are scattered over the Country in small parties under Subaltern Officers; except when they are employed in ranging, which is an essential part of their military educatn. in the Service for which they are designed.

If all the measures which have been pursued by Governmt. to convince the hostile Indians of the just and honorable intentions the U. States towards them should prove ineffectual we may certainly calculate upon a powerful opposition from their Combind force; in which case, we shall not only be unprepared to penetrate their Country, this Year, but there appears to me to be very little prospect of doing it early in the next; unless there can be some stimulus to the recruiting Service, and the Officers *absolutely* restrained from enlisting improper men; for I am told, notwithstanding the pointed instructions which have been issued to them on this head, that *boys* in *many instances* , and the *worst miscreants* in others are received: to the last of which may be attributed the number of desertions

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that are reported to the War Office. Under this view of the matter, your intimation to Genl Wayne respecting the Chicasaws and the Choctaws was prudent and proper; but I conceive, nevertheless, if a few of each Southern Nation say Six or 8 respectable characters was to visit and remain with the army as long as should be agreeable to themselves. Be well fed, cloathed, and in all respects treated with attention and kindness, it would be an effectual inducement to the coming

of the number that might be required next year?

I perceive by Mr. Belli's²⁰ letter that the difference between supplying the Troops with their Rations by Contract, and by a purchasing Commy. must be very great indeed, although he has not given the Wages, and other charges of the latter gentry. I am of opinion that the difference in favor of the latter will be found from the nature of things much greater on the exterior than it would be in the interior Country; and as the public pay for all lost provisions (by the enemy) is at the expence of Stores, Guards &c. it is a matter worthy of serious investigation and consequent decision. Consult therefore with the Secretary of the treasury, and act as the result shall appear best.

The *hair* must have *stood* on Major S—²¹ *head*, and a *stake* full in his view, when his letter of the 8th. of July was writing to Genl. Wilkinson, or the style of it would certainly have been varied.²² With esteem and regard I am &c.

20. John Belli, deputy quartermaster general, United States Army.

21. Maj. John Smith, of the First U. S. Infantry.

22. A long extract from Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1792.

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Sir: I have recd. your Letter of the 17th. inst; with it's enclosure from Genl. Wayne. Whatever Genl. Wayne may require towards the equipmt. of his troops for the service for wch. they are designed, provided a compliance therewith be authorised by Law, I think had better be granted. powder, in particular, precisely such as he desires, I would furnish him with in order that there may be no room for complaint here after on that score; at the same time! must confess that I am no friend to his proposal with respect to enlarging the touch holes; for part of the force of the powder must be expended that way, and when the musket gets a little foul, it may not communicate with the pan. It would certainly be better to employ a little more time in loading, where every shot ought to be well and deliberately aimed.

Orders or advertisements, which are intended to be put in the public Gazettes, ought to be well weighed and digested before they are inserted, as they will not only appear in all parts of Europe, but may be handed to the enemy. To publish beyond the limits of the army, or the vicinity of it, the dastardly behaviour of one's own Troops, is not a very pleasant thing.

Concerning his idea of having a Brand,²⁶ I have great doubts, both as to the legality and policy of the measure; the bad impression it may make in the country, may considerably outweigh the good effects it may produce in the army.

Printed blank Descriptions is to me an *Irishism* ; for the true meaning of wch. I am at a loss, and which requires an explanation. I am &c.²⁷

26. For the forehead of deserters.

27. The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1792.

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Sir: Since my last to you, dated the 26th of Augt. I have received your dispatches of the 23d; 26th; and 28th; of the same month; and it is probable, the Messenger who will carry this and other letters to the Post Office, will bring me the result of your deliberations on the communications from Georgia.

I am exceedingly glad to find

by the copy of Genl. Putnams letter to you, that he had resolved to proceed from Fort Washington to Post Vincennes, even if no other good should result from it, than to shew that nothing in the compass of the Executive has been unessayed to convince the hostile Indians of the pacific and equitable measure and intentions of the Government of the Union towards them. I shd. have been unwilling (as I mentioned to you in my letter of the —33 of Augt.) to have entrusted so important a negotiation to Majr. Hamtracht³⁴ although the business might have been transacted with zeal and ability by that Officer.

I hope the party of Seneca Indians when their services were dispensed with by Lieutt. Jeffers³⁵ were rewarded, and went off well satisfied. This, as far as it can be accomplished by reasonable attentions and proper compensation, ought *a/ways* to be the case.

The conduct of the Waggoners, in dropping the public stores with the transportation of which they are charged, along the Road to Pittsburgh, ought to undergo the strictest scrutiny; and in cases of culpability, to meet with severe punishment by way of example to others.

I have no objection to Peter Van Allans³⁶ filling the Vacancy which has been occasioned by the resignation of Lieutt. Schuyler³⁷ and shd. be glad to know the determination of Major Fish as soon as

33. August 13, *q. v.*

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34. Hamtramck.

35. Lieut. John Jeffers, of the First U.S. Infantry.

36. Peter Van Alen, lieutenant of the Artillery.

37. Lieut. Dirck Schuyler, of the Artillery.

he has formed and you are made acquainted with it. With esteem and regard. I am etc.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1792.

My dear Sir: I thank you sincerely for the medicine you were so obliging as to send for my Nephew, and for the sympathetic feeling you express for his situation. Poor fellow! Neither, I believe will be of any avail. Present appearances indicate a speedy dissolution. He has not been able to leave his bed except for a few moments to sit in an Arm Chair since the 14th. or 15th. of last month. The paroxysm of the disorder seems to be upon him and death or a favourable turn to it must soon follow.

I pray you to turn your thoughts to the communications which may be necessary for me to refer to from the War Department at the *opening* of the next Session; that such documents as shall be adjudged proper for the occasion may be prepared by *that time* for both houses of Congress; and if any thing else of a *general* nature should occur to you I would thank you for noting it for consideration that nothing proper may escape communication.

I learn through the medium of a letter from the Auditor to his father in law,

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Doctr. Craik, that Colo. Hamilton has it in contemplation to visit this part of the Country in the course of this, or the beginning of next month. Should this event take place and you could make it convenient to be of the party it will be unnecessary I hope for me to say that I should be very glad to see you under this roof. It is fair, however, to add, that this part of the Country has experienced more sickness *this* summer than is recollected to have happened for many years; first with the flux, and then with intermittant and remittant fevers. happily few deaths have been the consequence of either. The former is now over but the latter is still prevalent. Both the French and British Ministers talked of coming this way. Should they still continue in the same mind I should be glad if by indirect enquiries you could ascertain and let me know the time, or times (if they come seperately) they may be expected. My present intention, if the peculiar situation into which my affairs are thrown by the illness of my Nephew will not necessarily delay it, is to take the Sale of Lots in the Federal City in my way to Philadelphia; and this Sale is appointed to be on the 8th. of October. I am &c.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, September 7, 1792.

Sir: Your letters of the 31st. of Augt. and first of the present month, have been duly received. The enclosures in the first for Govt. Tellfair and Mr. Seagrove have been approved, and forwarded. Those of the Second I have read, but will give them a second and more attentive consideration before I express any decisive opinion upon General Waynes Plan for carrying on the War.

My first impression of it, however, is, that it differs immaterially, if in any thing from the basis, or principal features of the one that has been, and now is pursuing; except in the establishing of a Post on Big Beaver Creek, and in the two desultory strokes to be aimed at Sandusky and St. Joseph. The latter will be *right* , or *wrong* , according to the actual State of things at *those places* at the time it is proposed to make them, (to be ascertained

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from indubitable information) and by a comparison of the hazard wch. must be run of failure with the advantages to be gained in case of Success. In all other respects, I see little more than the Incidents and detail of the Original Plan; for if *all* the pacific overtures are rejected by the hostile Indians, and the Troops are neither in force nor discipline to make a forward movemt. the ensuing fall, it follows of course that it must be delayed until the Spring; and every exertion used in the establishment of Posts magazines &ca. for as early an expedition as high Waters

and the state of the forage will permit at that period. If Genl Wayne had any doubt of this and his power to arrange, and effectuate these, you have, I perceive by the copy of your letter to him, very properly removed it; and it is my wish and desire that his exertion to accomplish the objects he has contemplated, may be commensurate to the importance of them.

With respect to the proposition for establishing a Magazine on Big beavr., there is but one objection to it in my mind, admitting that it does not look forward to the event contemplated by Genl. Wayne (provided the position is judiciously chosen) and that is, the multiplication of Posts; for it has, for a great length of time, been my opinion that a strong Post at that place would cover much more effectually the Western frontier of Pennsylvania and the Northern parts of Virginia, than a Post at Pittsburgh; but habit, and the deep root the latter has taken, to which may be added its being a convenient deposit, and a place of more safety with a *small* garrison (on Acct. of its Inhabitants) than any other, has restrained my mentioning of it before. But in case of a movement towards Sandusky one there does, in that design, become important.

If, upon more mature consideration of the ideas submitted by Genl. Wayne, I should find cause to change the sentiments herein expressed,

the alterations shall be communicated in my next; if not, you will consider what I have here said as the *substance* of my opinion thereupon. Before the (grain) forage is purchased

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above for the Posts *below* , it ought to be ascertained from whence (including the transportation to Fort Washington) it can be had cheapest. I have understood, as well from others (who are just from that Country) as from the letter of Mr. Belli, that the Crops of Grain in Kentucky are astonishingly great. It would have an odd appearance therefore, and I dare say would give much dissatisfaction to the people of that State, to have the forage carried down the River from the Neighbd. of Pittsburgh, unless it is obtained on *better* terms than they will supply it.

A caution both to Genl. Wayne (and through him to Genl Wilkinson) ought to be given, to guard *effectually* , the Hay at the Outposts. Unless this is done, the Indians will, most assuredly, set fire to it before the Spring; and to do it without having the stacks in the range of their defences, or as a cover to the approaches of the enemy, is no easy matter. I am &c.

If the enclosed represents a fact the case merits attention.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1702.

Sir: Your letter of the 8th, with its enclosures, came duly to hand; and requires but little in reply to it, as your answer to Genl Waynes communications contain every direction which

is necessary for his governmt at this time. Whatever may be the Attorney General's opinion with respect to the *legality* of calling out Militia by the Governor of Pennsylvania, for supplying the place of the Rangers, it is not an easy matter, under the circumstances which now do and have existed during the Summer, to discover any necessity for the measure; especially if the order was subsequent to *your* solution of *his* queries.

Captn. Brants letter, and the Speech of the Chiefs of the Six Nations to Genl Chapin, is no more than a continuation of the Evidence, which, long since, has established a fact,

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and left no doubt in my mind, of the causes to which all our difficulties with the Western Indians are to be ascribed; and I am equally clear, that the period is not very distant when this business will assume a less disguised appearance.

Have you received any answer yet from Major Fish respecting the offer that was made him of the Office of Adjutant General?⁵⁸ This matter has been too long suspended. With esteem and regd. I am &c.

58. A copy of Nicholas Fish's declination, dated September 7, from Schoharie, N.Y., is in the *Washington Papers*. It was inclosed in Knox's letter to Washington, Sept. 15, 1792.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 15th. instt., with its enclosures, came duly to hand. It is exceedingly to be regretted that all the attempts of Government to bring the hostile Indians acquainted with the real designs of it, (so far as it respects the disputes with them), should be so pointedly marked with misfortune, disappoint [*sic*] or delay. Captn Brants illness, and the sickness and delays of the other Chiefs of the Six Nations, are inauspicious of a favourable result; for much is not to be expected from the single attempt of Captn. Hendricks however zealously he may labour in the Cause of humanity and Peace; and as prest. appearances are so ominous of a continuation of the War, no pains, nor no expence within the bounds of moderation ought to go unessayed to ascertain the nature, extent and strength of the Confederation against which we are to contend; that our measures may be regulated accordingly. Without a competent knowledge of these facts we shall grope in the dark; and may meet disaster when danger is not expected. To this end General Wayne should be particularly instructed, and the Indian Agents also. Nor would it be amiss if some expedient could be devis'd to obtain

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intelligence from Detroit, that the British accts. of these matters might be likewise known. From the nature, and circumstances of this War good information is scarcely to be obtained, at least not to be relied on, but from a comparison of the intelligence which is obtained through different channels.

In your letter to Genl. Wayne of the 7th. instt., Copy of which is among the enclosures you have forwarded to me, he is informed, that you will "immediately write to the President of the U. States and request his orders on certain conditional Statements relatively to the proportion of Troops which it may probably be necessary to retain in the upper parts of the Ohio." No such statement is yet come to my hands; of course I am unprovided with the means by which to form a judgment on this head; but under my present view of the matter, and the uncertainty in which we seem to be of the final and *positive* result of the grand Council of the Indians, holden at the Miami, the longer the decision is with-held the better; provided sufficient time is allowed the Troops to cover themselves comfortably for the Winter. And here, while it occurs, let me ask why the same kind of Huts, and mode of covering that was adopted by the army last War may not be again practiced, except *permanent* Barracks, for sufficient Garrisons, at the established Posts. If Scantling, Brick, &ca. are to be provided by the Qr Master it will be attended with considerable expence, and if for a temporary purpose

only will be thought injudiciously incurred; and besides, how can this be done, conveniently, before the disposition of the Troops is resolved on?

I am in sentiment with you, that Sub-Legionary Paymasters, and sub-legionary Adjutants (the latter aided by the Sergeant Majors) are competent to their respective duties without Battalion officers of this description; at any rate I conceive that the experiment ought to be made with the latter in the 1st inste.

My observation on every employment in life is, that wherever, and whenever one person is found adequate to the discharge of a duty by close application thereto it is worse executed

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by two persons, and scarcely done at all if three or more are employed therein; besides, as you have very properly observed, the danger of money is encreased in proportion to the number of hands into which it is committed.

As Major Fish declines the Office of Adjutant General, and Colo. Sproat⁷⁴ who (I believe) is on the Spot, is willing to accept it, I have no objection to his entering on the duties; provided it is *known* that he is a man of liberal education and correct in his writing; *doubts* of these qualifications in Colo. Posey are the only obstacles to my giving him a preference to any other.

I have no objections to Sergeants Dunn and Jones⁷⁵ filling vacant Ensigncies

74. Ebenezer Sproat.

75. George H. Dunn and Abraham Jones, of the Legion of the United States.

if they have given sufficient evidence of their fitness; but as there have been some impositions already in people of this Class I recommend strict caution in future.

Richardson⁷⁶ should be mentioned to Genl. Wayne, that his behaviour may be noticed.

A likely young man in Alexandria of the name of Turner, has been strongly recommended to me for an Ensigncy. It is said (among other things in his favor) that a number of young Country born men would enlist under *him*. I have answered, let him “ascertain *that* fact, and then apply with the list of them.”

If the Evidence in the case of Ensign Morgan⁷⁷ is all given in, it becomes proper he should be ordered to the army for his trial; and if it is necessary in *this* case, and will not be establishing an unusual, and bad precedent to do it in the name of the President, I have no objection to the measure. If discretion was a trait of this Officers character or fairness the view of his Advisers, I should hope he would abandon the idea of presenting a memorial to be tried in Philadelphia or that he wd. hesitate a moment to go where he is ordered; if,

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however, the latter should happen, it would be well, before it is reported to me, to have him and his friends admonished in a friendly way of the consequences that must follow disobedience; for neither the Military nor Civil government shall be trampled upon with impunity whilst I have the honor to be at the head of them. I have no objections to his being tried at Pittsburg, and if there is no reasons op

76. Joseph Richardson.

77. Ensign John Morgan, of the First U. S. Infantry.

posed to it (unknown to me) I wd. advise it. That it cannot happen in Philadelphia is certain. Military propriety, the public Service convenience, and the precedent such a measure would establish, are so strongly opposed to it that it is wonderful, he should ever have suffered the idea to enter into his mind. Why might not, another Officer, if indulgence was granted in this instance, apply for a similar one; nay why not to be carried to Boston, or Charleston as inclination or the expectation of benefits to be derived from it, might prompt.

I perceive by the copy of General Wayne's letter to you before mentioned, that there has been some remissness on the part of the Contractors at Pittsburgh. This ought not to be suffered in the smallest degree; for one neglect or omission, is too apt to beget another, to the discontentment of the Troops and injury of the Service; whereas a rigid exaction in every case checks a departure on their part from the Contract in any; and no indulgence is ever allowed by them to the public. In a former letter, (led thereto by the observations of Mr. Belli) I requested that some consideration might be bestowed upon the mode suggested by him of supplying the Troops by means of a Commissary; but I have heard nothing from you on the Subject since.

The Orders given to the Officer who commanded the Escort of money,

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and to Genl Wayne, respecting the Supervisor appear to have resulted from necessary precaution, and if warranted by the Constitution and Laws, were undoubtedly proper; and of course are approved. With esteem &c.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 22d. Inst., and the enclosures, came to my hands by Wednesdays Post.

I adhere to my resolution of commencing my journey for Philadelphia the 8th. of next month if the condition of my Servts. will admit of it, two of them (one a Postilion) having been extremely ill with remittant fevers which have not yet left them. My order for the Carriage from Philadelphia, to be here by the 8th. for my accommodation back is not countermd. on this Acct.

But, as my journey *may* be delayed something longer than was expected, and as the cold season is approaching, I shall, in addition to what I said on the subject in my last, give you, *in general terms* , my ideas for the disposition of the Troops for the Winter under the uncertainty in which we are of Peace, with the Western Indians.

My first wish would be to keep the Army as compact as possible for the purpose of disciplining, and training the men to such kinds of manœuvres and firings as are proper for Indian Warfare; but, as this would involve one of two evils of magnitude namely, an exposed frontier, or an expensive Militia for its protection, this wish is scarcely attainable. How to dispose of the Troops then to the best advantage for defence is next to be considered; and to do this properly, the ulterior movements of the Army must be held in view, and the period of their commencement also. There are two *principal* , and one intermediate points, on the Ohio, which claim particular attention; to wit Pittsburgh, or

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some place not far from it, Fort Washington, and Marietta. The grand movement, in the present train of things, must certainly proceed from Fort Washington, but it does not follow (unless circumstances should point to advantages to be derived from a Winter Campaign, when frost would prevent the descent of the Ohio) that the force ought necessarily to be assembled at that place until about to make a forward movement. 1st. because the enemies attention would be less fixed to it. 2. because the Magazines of Provisions, Military Stores and forage, would

accumulate with more ease at that place by lessening the consumption there; and 3d. because the River from Pittsburgh to that Post might be descended when the Waters are up, in Six or eight days: and matters being previously arranged thereat the Army might march as soon as the junction should be formed: whilst the desultory movement which has been contemplated, might proceed (if from good intelligence it should be thought advisable) from big Beaver to Sandusky. Under this idea of the matter one Sub-legion might be Posted under the Cored. of Genl Wilkinson at the Posts below; one at Marietta under the Commd. of G. Putnam; and the other two in the upper part of the River under the Commander in Chief with whom the intercourse would be easy from Philadelphia and his orders quickly dispatched to the Subordinate parts of the Army below.

Without being decided, I ask whether the upper division of the Army, (except the Garrison of Fort Franklin, and a sufficient one for the Stores &ca. at Pittsburgh), had not better be huttet in a secure manner on some convenient Spot near the mouth of, or somewhere on Big Beaver Creek? Keeping out (as ought also to be the case at other Stations) a regular succession of Scouts to scour the Ctry. above and below as well for defence as an essential part of their Tactics. Such a disposition of the force, if the real movements and plan of operations is kept secret which they undoubtedly ought to be, would embarrass the enemy not a little; and more than probably be attended

with solid advantages. I do not however convey these sentiments to you as an *order* , but give them rather as thoughts that have arisen from the incomplete state of our force and

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the incertitude of the result of the Indian Councils, and for free observation and remarks both by yourself and General Wayne if there was time to obtain them than from any other motive at present.

Perhaps a sufficient Garrison might be better at Marietta (as the intermediate Post) than a larger force and *two* Sub-legionary Corps (including the said Garrison and all others lower down, as the calls for Troops below are great, on acct. of the Communication with the advanced Posts) be wintered in Hutts secured by Intrenchments or a fortified Camp at Fort Washington if there are not Barracks sufficient to contain them at that place. I am &c.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1792.

Sir: I have reced. from Govr. Lee a Letter from Arthur Campbell Esqr. to him, (a copy of which I now enclose for your perusal) stating the return of Colo. Hardin to Fort Washington, and giving some information with respect to Indian Affairs. With esteem I am etc.⁸⁸

88. The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

***OBSERVATIONS ON MAJOR GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE'S LETTER OF THE 14TH INSTANT³²**

November 23 [1792].

It is unfortunate, and very extraordinary that he should have suspended an opinion with respect to the disposition of the army for the winter, from a vague report of Mr. H— declaration concerning the Western Posts. If this had been founded he ought to have looked for it from a better source, or to have disregarded it altogether. *Now* I presume, it is too late to carry what *would* , (had he not been under false impressions) have been *his*

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plan, into execution. But I think he ought to be charged in strong and explicit terms to run the public to

32. Wayne's letter to Knox is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

no more expence in the Barracks he is about to build, than what is *indispensably* necessary to cover and secure the Officers and Soldiers from the weather. avoiding *all decorations* , and *as much as possible all conveniences* , considering them selves as it were, under marching orders to remove *during Winter* , or in the *Spring* , according to events and circumstances.

ON WAYNE'S OF THE 16TH OF NOVEMBER³³

The difficulty, and as he (G. W) calls it, the impracticability of providing Flour after the 15th. of June, is *New information* , which, if it had been given before, might have induced the authorisation of a larger Magazine of this article: and now, if it does not militate with the arrangement made with the Secretary of the Treasury, I should have no dis-inclination towards increasing the quantity. Of the Meat kind, after a sufficient quantity of that which is salted, is stored; the dependence ought surely to be on live Cattle; Stalled or Grass fed; As the expence of transportation in Carriages, or on Pack horses, would be immense. As flour must always be carried, there may, and I think ought to be³⁴ exertion used to get it forward in the best mode and time that can be embraced to the advanced Posts, for reasons which are too obvious to be mentioned.

33. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

34. The "Letter Book" copy inserts the word "every" at this point.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

United States, January 4, 1793.

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By the President's command T. Lear has the honor to return to the Secretary of War Genl. Wayne's letter and it's enclosures, which have been submitted to the President; and to inform the Secretary that the President thinks it would be best to dispatch a special Messenger to bring Cornplanter to this place, as it is highly important to know with as much accuracy as possible the views of the hostile Indians.

The president thinks it would be proper to lay a copy of the Speech of Cornplanter, and the New Arrow, before Congress, and to introduce it by observing that as that business is now before them it is thought proper to communicate to them every thing that can throw light on the subject.⁷⁶

76. This letter is signed "Tobias Lear. S. P. U.S." in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, February 19, 1793.

Sir: I have given due consideration

to the papers annexed²⁹ If the usage of the Army has been, that the Officer next in seniority has not only the right to fill the vacancy which is occasioned by death, resignation, or dismissal; but also (if adjudged worthy of promotion) to have his Commission dated at the time the said vacancy happened: And, as it appears that the resignation of Captn. Mercer³⁰ of the first Regiment did actually take place on the 26th. of November 1790 (although for certain considerations his *pay* was continued until April following) and notice thereof was officially receivd at the War Office on the 5th. of January then next ensuing I can see no principle on which the Memorialists whose military existence as Capts. did not take place until the 4th. of March is founded; and

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therefore under the statement which is exhibited to me, do give it as my opinion that Captn. Armstrong ought to take rank of the Memorialists.

29. "The papers annexed were a memorial of several Captns. of the army of the U.S. against the rank of Captn. Armstrong. Extract of a letter from Genl. Harmar respecting Capt. Mercer's resignation. and the opinion of the Secy. of War on the Memorial." This note, in the writing of Lear, is on the verso of this draft.

30. Capt. John Mercer.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Thursday Morning, February 28, 1793.

Dr. Sir: It is much to be regretted that the subject of Rations (encreased) had not been thought of and considered at an earlier period! It is to be feared a proposition

at this time would be received with an ill grace. probably no attention paid to it. At the meeting you are about to have to would be well to mention the matter and know what the Gentlemen there would think of bringing the matter forward at a time so Mal a propos. Yrs.44

44. A contemporary copy, in the writing of a clerk.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, April 5, 1793.

Sir: In addition to the several matters contained in my circular Letter to you before I left Philada. which you were desired to take into consideration, I now submit to you (and to the other Gentlemen to whom the abovementioned letter was directed, and who you will now

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also consult) a request of the Society of Quakers to be permitted to make presents to the Indians at the proposed Treaty at Sandusky.

You will determine among yourselves as to the propriety of granting this request *at all* , and to what amount, [and of what kind of Articles] they may present to the Indians. The result of your united deliberations (as I am satisfied it will meet my approbation) you may communicate to the Society; as they may want to make some arrangements, in case their request should be granted, before the Commissioners depart for Sandusky.

On my way to this place I saw Capt. Barney at Baltimore who has just arrived from the Havanna; and says, the day before he left that place, which I believe was the 10 Ult., advice had been received and generally believed, that our friend McGillivray was dead; and that Bowles who was sent to Spain had been *hanged* . Whether this news is true

or not, I am not authorized to say, tho' Capt. Barney seems to entertain no doubt of the facts.

Genl. Posey, who is now with me, informs me he is ready to receive any instruction you may wish to give him, and desires to know how he is to be disposed of. I expected he had received your orders before this time [to join the Main Army]; but as it is not the case, I hope you will without delay [do this, or] inform him for what particular service he is destined [if any thing more advantageous was in contempln. for him.] I am &c.

P.S. If General Posey is ordered to join the Main Army, he desires to be permitted to take Philadelphia in his way, in order to provide himself with some necessaries, which he cannot conveniently procure elsewhere.⁹⁶

96. The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

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Mount Vernon, April 12, 1793.

Dr Sir: Your letter of the 8th instt. with its enclosures came duly to hand. It is painful, after the exertions Government have made to keep the Southern Indians quiet, and the expence that has been incurred to effect it, to receive such unfavorable accts. from that quarter as are contained in the letters of Mr. Seagroves which you have forwarded to me.

From Genl. Waynes representation of the want of Officers, I am of opinion that such of the newly appointed Ensigs. as are with the Army, ought to be Commissioned without delay, the commissioning of the other, provisional ones, may be suspended for further consideration.

I shall set out tomorrow for Philadelphia. The advices which I expect to receive by the Post this evening will decide whether it will be by the direct rout, or by the way of Carlisle, Harrisburgh and the Canals wch. is opening between the Susquehanna and Schoolkill, &ca. As I shall soon be at the Seat of government by either rout, I shall only add that it is with pleasure I hear your health is restored, and that I am etc.

***To THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

(Circular)

Philadelphia, April 18, 1793.

Sir: The posture of affairs in Europe, particularly between France and Great Britain, places the United States in a delicate situation; and requires much consideration of the measures which will be proper for them to observe in the War betwn. those Powers. With a view to forming a general plan of conduct for the Executive, I have

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stated and enclosed sundry questions to be considered preparatory to a meeting at my house tomorrow; where I shall expect to see you at 9 o'clock, and to receive the result of your reflections thereon.¹⁵

***QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE CABINET BY THE PRESIDENT¹³**

Philadelphia, April 18, 1793.

Question I. Shall a proclamation issue for the purpose of preventing interferences of the Citizens of the United States in the War between France and Great Britain &ca.? Shall it contain a declaration of Neutrality or not? What shall it contain?

Questn. II. Shall a Minister from the Republic of France be received?

Quest. III. If received shall it be absolutely or with qualifications; and if with qualifications, of what kind?

Quest. IV. Are the United States obliged by good faith to consider the Treaties heretofore made with France as applying to the present situation of the parties. May they either renounce them, or hold them suspended 'till the Government of France shall be *established*

Questn. V. If they have the right is it

15. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress, a press copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

13. Jefferson's *Anas* records that these questions were really Hamilton's and cites Randolph as his authority.

expedient to do either, and which?

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Questn. VI. If they have an option, would it be a breach of Neutrality to consider the Treaties still in operation?

Quest. VII. If the Treaties are to be considered as now in operation is the Guarantee in the Treaty of Alliance applicable to a defensive war only, or to War either offensive or defensive?

VIII. Does the War in which France is engaged appear to be offensive or defensive on her part? or of a mixed and equivocal character?

IX. If of a mixed and equivocal character does the Guarantee in any event apply to such a War?

X. What is the effect of a Guarantee such as that to be found in the Treaty of Alliance between the United States and France?

XI. Does any Article in either of the Treaties prevent Ships of War, other than Privateers, of the Powers opposed to France, from coming into the Ports of the United States to act as Convoys to their own Merchantment? or does

it lay any other restraint upon them more than wd. apply to the Ships of War of France?

Quest. XII. Should the future Regent of France send a Minister to the United States ought he to be received?

XIII. Is it necessary or advisable to call together the two Houses of Congress with a view to the present posture of European Affairs? If it is, what should be the particular object of such a call?¹⁴

14. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress, a press copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

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A note in Jefferson's writing, under date of April 18 in the *Washington Papers*, states that it was: "Agreed by all that a Proclamation shall issue, forbidding our citizens to take part in any hostilities on the seas with or against any of the belligerent powers, and warning them against carrying to any such powers any of those articles deemed contraband according to the modern usage of nations, and enjoining them from all acts and proceedings inconsistent with the duties of a friendly nation towards those at war."

The *Anas* for April 18 (recorded May 6) state: "We met. the 1st question whether we should receive the French minister Genest was proposed, and we agreed unanimously that he should be received Hamilton at the same time expressing his great regret that any incident had happnd. which should oblige us to recognize the govmt. the next question was whether he shd. be received absolutely, or with qualificns. here H. took up the whole subject, and went through it in the order in which the questions sketch it. see the chain of his reasoning in my opn of Apr. 28. Knox subscribed at once to H's opn that we ought to declare the treaty void, acknoleging at the same time, like a fool as he is, that he knew nothing about it. it was clear it remained valid. E. R. declared himself of the same opn, but on H's, undertaking to present to him the authority in Vattel (which we had not present) and to prove to him that, if the authority was admitted the treaty might be declared void, E. R. agreed to take further time to consider. it was adjourned. we determd. Unanimly. the last qu. yt Congress shd yt be called. there havg been an intimation by E. R. that in so great a question he shd chuse to give a written opn, and this being approvd by the Pres. I gave in mine Apr. 28. H. gave in his. I believe Knox's was never thought worth offering or asking for. E. R. gave his May 6. concurring with mine. the Presidt. told me the same day he had never had a doubt about the validity of the treaty: but that since a question had been suggested he thought it ot to be considered that this being done, I might now issue Passports to sea vessels in the form prescribed by the French treaty. I had for a week past only issd. the Dutch form; to have issd. the French wd. have been presupposing the treaty to be in existence. the Presidt. suggested that he thot it wd be as well that nothing should be sd of such a question havg been under considn."

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This record is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. Jefferson's opinion of April 28 is in the *Washington Papers*. Hamilton and Knox signed a joint opinion, May 2, which is entered in the "Letter Book." Knox submitted a separate opinion, May 16, which is also entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

(Private)

Philadelphia, June 14, 1793.

Sir: By the Gazettes of to day, I perceive a Vessel is just arrived in this Port from New Orleans, on board of which are several of our Citizens; who, having passed down the Mississippi, are now on their return to the Ohio, their place of residence.

It is of great importance that this Government should be fully informed of the Spanish force in the Floridas, the number of their Posts, and the strength and situation of each; together with such other circumstances as would enable it to adopt correspondent measures in case we should, in spite of our endeavors to avoid it, get embroiled in a dispute with that Nation. It would be too improvident, might be too late, and certainly would be disgraceful, to have this information to obtain when our plans ought to be formed. I desire therefore, that you would cause in as unsuspected a manner as the case will admit, the above persons to be examined touching the above points, and what number of Troops have lately arrived at New Orleans; and commit the result to Paper. Were they to be examined

seperately, advantages might follow by comparing their accounts. I point you to the above as *one* source *only* of information; my desire to obtain a knowledge of these facts, lead me to request with equal earnestness, that you would improve every other to ascertain them with certainty. No reasonable expence should be spared to accomplish objects of such magnitude, in times so critical.

[MS.H.S.]

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, June 23, 1793.

Sir: Under cover with this note, you will receive two letters and an enclosure from Govt. Mifflin, wch. are sent to you for your information. Also the Journal of a Mr. Ewing's Voyage down, and his observations respecting the Posts, Settlements &ca. on, the Mississippi. It is my earnest desire that you would prosecute these enquiries with assiduity.

It merits investigation in order to decide whether the call upon Govr. Mifflin to secure the Prize of the Citizen Genet, released by the Marshall of the District of Pennsylvania in conseque. of the Admiralty Courts

refusing to take cognizance [of the affair]⁸⁴ will require the number of Militia ordered on this Service by him. After having made this enquiry, you will give orders accordingly.

***To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, AND WAR**

June 12, 1793.

Gentlemen: As you are about to meet on other business, it is my desire that you would take the enclosed application into consideration. It is not my wish, on one hand, to throw unnecessary obstacles in the way of gratifying the wishes of the applicants. On the other, it is incumbent on me to proceed with regularity. Would not the granting a Patent then, which I believe is always the concluding Act, and predicated upon the Survey (as a necessary document) have too much the appearance of placing the Cart before the horse? And does not the Law enjoin something on the Attorney General of the U. States previous to the Signature of the President? What can be done with propriety I am willing to do. More I ought not to do.⁶⁹

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84. The words in brackets are supplied from the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

69. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR AND GENERAL ANDREW PICKENS**

Philadelphia, July 26, 1793.

In addition to the information given by the Secretary of War and Genl. Pickins the 24th. instant, answers to the following queries are requested.

1st. In how short a time after full powers are received, by General Pickins for instance, at his own house, could an Expedition of the magnitude mentioned in the information, be in readiness to move from the appointed rendezvous, or place of departure on the frontiers?

2d. What quota of the aggregate force designated for such an Expedition ought the several States therein mentioned to furnish? and can such quota be obtained from the frontier Counties, and of proper men?

3d. Ought not the frontier Counties of Virginia (bordering on the South Western territory) to afford their aid of Men, and in what proportion?

4th. Is the enumerated force intended to comprehend an Expedition against the Cherokees also, or is it confined solely to the Creeks?

5th. If it is not, what force would be necessary for that Service, if the disposition of that Nation should

render offensive measures expedient? and

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6th. Who would be a fit character to command such an Expedition? And ought it to be subordinate to, or independent of the other?

7th. At what season do the Southern streams *usually* swell much? Are they not *generally* low until the month of January, and oftentimes longer?

8th. If there should be some part of the beforementioned Nations of Indians disposed to peace, can any effectual mode of discrimination be adopted other than withdrawing, and fixing them in some place or places within the frontier by which they could be saved harmless, and rendered inoffensive? And what disadvantages would result from the attempt, in any manner, to our operations, from its being the means of disclosing our intentions?⁴¹

41. Pickens's answers are in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, August 26, 1793.

Sir: The enclosed letter from the Governor of the State of Delaware dated the 23d. instt. came to hand this moment.

The occasion requires some thing to be written, or done in consequence of the information.⁹⁰

90. See Washington's letter to Gov. Joshua Clayton, Sept. 4, 1793, *post*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1793.

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Sir: The Packet herewith sent, I fd. at the Post Office in Alexandria, as I passed through that Town on Saturday afternoon.

The letter from the Minister of the French Republic, dated the 7th. instt, in answr. to one he had received from Govr. Clinton of the 3d. preceeding, breathes (as far as I can understand it from Mr. Dandridge's translation) the same language as all others do which have been received from that Gentleman lately.

The points in it to be decided on are two, first the proposition or *rather information* of Mr. Genet respecting the Privateers Little Democrat and Carmagnole, and 2d. the William Tell, Prize to the Cerf. If the latter should have got into the Court of Admiralty, it will not, (at least in the first instance) require the interference of the Executive; But if this should not have been the case, any opinion which you, the Secretary of State and Attorney General of the U. States, shall agree in (I take it for granted that Colo. Hamilton is not in a situation to attend) may be forwarded to the Governor of New York as my decision in both, or either case, without refering it to me.

With best wishes for your continuance in health etc.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 25, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your letters of the 15th. and 18th. instt. And as the last announces your intention of setting out for Boston the next day I shall add nothing in this letter on business; but shall thank you for the information you have given me, as well private as public; and observe that, it appears to me highly necessary that the heads of Departments should assemble in Philadelphia or Vicinity of it by the first of November at which time and place I shall make it a point to be present. I have wrote to the Secretary

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of the Treasury to this effect and have communicated the same to the Secretary of State. With very great esteem etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1793.

Dr Sir: The violence with which (from all accounts I have received) the contagious fever in Philada. continues to rage makes it still more necessary than ever that the meeting of the Heads of Departments which I requested you to attend in a letter of the 25 Sept: should not fail to take place by the first

of November [that among other things measures may be taken for security of the public Offices and Papers.] I shall set out from this place in order to meet you and the other Gentlemen in the vicinity of Philada. at that time. [The heads of Departments being absent the disputes arising between the agents of the Powers at war, and other matters, are transmitted immediately to me.]

Should the continuance of the fever in the City of Philada. render it unsafe and improper for the members of Congress to assemble there the first of December (and indeed there seems to be no hope of disappearance by that time) what in that case is to be done? Do you conceive the President is authorised by the Constitution or Laws of the U S. to interfere in such a case? Altho' the President has power to call Congress together in *extraordinary* cases, it [is denied] that power is given to change the fixed place of convening. [By others it is thought the exigency of the present case wd justify the measure]. Indeed it has been made a question by some whether even Congress themselves have this power. I should be glad to have your opinion upon these points as soon as possible, because if the Executive have power no time is to be lost in using it.

Admitting, however, that the President was authorised to convene Congress at any other place than Philada. where have you contemplated as most convenient and agreeable

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to all parties? [for the ensuing Session, considering it is a temporary measure, that the public offices are established in Phila., and the Papers difficult and expensive to remove.] German[town] would certainly have been preferred [by me] but, unfortunately,

I am told the fever has reached it and several people died therein, [but all deaths now are charged to acct. of the malignant fever.] Wilmington and Trenton are equidistant in opposite directions from Philada. but situated on the great thoroughfare thro' the Union, and exposed in a great degree to the communication of the infection, and would be equally unsatisfactory to the members whose distance would be increased. Reading is more out of the way of taking the infection, being off the great road thro' the Country, and could not be complained of by either northern or Southern members on account of *situation*, how do you think it would accommodate Congress the ensuing Session? [write fully and promptly as I may receive your letter before I shall see you. With very great esteem. etc.]97

97. The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge. The parts in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, December 23, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have read the proposed message to the "Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations" and approve of it, except that I question whether the 8th. and the 11th. paragraphs are expressed *quite* strong enough. The 8th. gives too much ground, in my opinion, to expect a compliance with their request in its full extent; and the 11th. although the sense is plain, seems hardly decisive enough for Indian comprehension and there should be no misconception. Yrs. always.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, April 4, 1794.

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Sir: Your letter of this date, enclosg. one from Captain Williamson,³¹ is recd. I have never entertained any doubts myself of the genuineness of the Speech wch. is published as Lord Dorchesters, nor of the intentions of the B Government to keep this Country in a state of disquietude with the Indian Nations and also to alter the

31. Captain Williamson lived in the Genesee country.

Boundary between them and us, if, by any means they can effect it. For this reason I repeat in this manner, what I have two or three times done before verbally, that Genl. Chapin³² should be instructed to leave no means unessayed to keep the Six Nations well disposed towards the U. States, and to buy Captn. B—t³³ off at almost any price. Capt. Williamson affords, I presume, a safe conveyance to him. I am etc.

32. Gen. Israel Chapin.

33. Joseph Brant. Knox suggested offering him an annuity of \$1,000 to \$1,500.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Saturday, April 5, 1794.

Dr. Sir: The Letter³⁴ appears to me to be very proper, but Genl. Chapins negotiations with the Six Nations ought to be apart from British Agents or Spies. I mean with the Chiefs, otherwise they can come to nothing. Yrs. etc.

[MS.H.S.]

34. Knox's letter to Chapin, authorizing offering the annuity to Brant.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, April 7, 1794.

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Sir: If the number of recruits in the Atlantic States, can afford a detachment of fifty men to the southward, without too great an exposure of more important objects, it will accord with my opinion that that number shou'd be sent thither.³⁵ And they may be designated for Charleston or Savannah, as shall appear most eligible to you from the information that is to be obtained. Your's etc.³⁶

35. Knox's letter to Washington (April 7) states that these recruits were sent "in order to guard the batteries, for the present, which are to be erected upon the Seacoast of those States." Knox's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

36. The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

April 9, 1794.

Sir: In reply to your letter of yesterday, I observe, that to fortify Annapolis is, in my judgment, a very proper measure. But I do not see that the Executive of the U. States can take any steps towards it until the result of the motion, now pending in the House of Representatives, be known.

It is my desire that you would examine carefully the Speeches which have been made in this City, and elsewhere, to the Tribes of Indians now in amity with us that unfulfilled promises (if any) may be complied with.

I desire also, that the requisites of such laws as have passed this Session (not already in execution) within the purview of the Department of War, may be reported to me, that directions may issue accordingly.⁴⁵

45. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" as of date of April 10. Knox's answer, under date of April 10, is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, April 12, 1794.

Sir: Your report, dated the 11th. instt. respecting the defence of Mero district⁵² is approved, and the Governor of the South Western Territory may be authorized to carry it into effect.

52. This report is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, April 16, 1794.

Sir: I have considered your report of the 15th. instt. relatively to the Frigates which are to be built; and as soon as the important points on which the master builders have differed, is settled by the expedient you have had recourse to; and you can obtain the means for carrying the law into effect, it is my desire that the work may (be entered upon) without delay; in the manner, and at the places which you have suggested; with this alteration however, that if Baltimore does not possess advantages which Norfolk has not, that the 44 gunship shall be built at the latter, and the one of 36 guns at the former. The wealth, and populousness of the two states will not only warrant, but require this change, if there is an equality in other respects.

PS. At nine oclock tomorrow, I shall want to converse with you on your other report of the 10th. instt.⁶⁵

65. On the act of Congress for the defense of certain ports and harbors.

On April 16 Washington wrote to Hamilton that he had appointed Nathaniel Cabot Higginson of Philadelphia, United States agent to the British West Indies, for "certain purposes relating to the Ships and vessels of the United States, which have been, or

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may be seized and sent into the ports of any of those Islands by british cruizers, since the commencement of the present war between great britain and France,” and directing an advance of \$5,000 to Higginson out of the contingent fund of the Government. This letter is entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, May 1, 1794.

Sir: The letter from General Wayne to you, of the 10th of March, I have perused.

The Contractors who supplied the articles of Hats and Shoes to the Army, which he complains of, or the person who inspected them, or both, ought to be called to a severe account for such abuse of public confidence.

The ideas communicated in the above letter, relatively to long and Short Coats are not, I conceive, bad.

Giving leave of absence to so many Officers as Genl. Wayne does, is in my opinion, reprehensible, particularly at a time when active Service may be expected; and when his complaints of their deficiency are reiterated in almost every one of his letters.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1794.

Sir: Your letter of the 25th. instt, enclosing letters from Generals Wayne and Chapin, and from the Contractor Williams, came safe by Fridays Post. On neither shall I say anything at present; because (if I find myself able to bear jolting over the infamous roads I have to travel) I shall, on thursday, commence my journey for Philadelphia, and proceed by easy stages. For this reason, and because

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it is probable (if upon enquiry at George Town, I shall find the upper road best, I may take it, It becomes expedient to detain yr. further communications until my arrival at the seat of Government.

But once since I came home, have I attempted to mount a horse, and then was obliged, very soon, to quit him. However, as I am mending fast, my absence from Philada. shall not be delayed an hour, for any private business of my own, so soon as I am in a condition to travel.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, July 14, 1794.

Sir: I have given the proceedings of the Court Martial in the case of Captn. Willm. A. Lee,⁵⁹ and the Petition which accompanied it to have him restored, an attentive perusal.

The judgment of the Court is, in my opinion, well supported by evidence (except in the article of nonconformity with the order of arrest) in *this*, the explanation of an expression of Captn. Campbell⁶⁰ may have led him into the error he committed; that it afforded the pretext, is obvious.

On an abstract view of this case, I should feel no disposition (on account of the inebrity, and the high handed proceeding towards the centinal which are proved) to alleviate the mortification felt by Captn. Lee on acct. of his dismissal, by a reappointment of him in some other Corps. But when I consider his former services, and the time he has been in the present Army. The interest which the Officers thereof (who have the best means of becoming acquainted with his merits) have taken in this Affair. That the sentence under which he is smarting may be a warning to him in future. And that (though not alone sufficient) his connections are most respectable,

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59. Capt. William Aylet Lee, of the United States Legion. He was nominated as a captain in the Artillerists and Engineers Dec. 29, 1794.

60. Capt. Robert M. Campbell, of the United States Legion.

and are made unhappy by his present disgrace; these considerations combined, induce me to give him the Company of Artillery become vacant by the non-acceptance of—Williamson,⁶¹ and I desire the Commission may be prepared accordingly.

61. Benjamin Williamson, of New Jersey. He had been nominated (May 31) to a captaincy in the Artillerists and Engineers.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, December 23, 1794.

Sir: The letter of which the enclosed is a copy, was received yesterday.⁵⁶

The information wch. it contains being of a serious nature I request that strict enquiry may be instituted into the matter and a report thereupon made to me.

56. The letter was from Senator Pierce Butler, of South Carolina, dated Nov. 30, 1794, and informed the President that abuses were being committed in the building of the United States frigates. (See Washington's letter to Pierce Butler, Jan. 7, 1795, *post.*)

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, December 30, 1794.

Sir: The considerations which you have often suggested to me, and are repeated in your letter of the 28th. instant,⁶⁵ as requiring your departure from your present office, are such,

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as to preclude the possibility of my urging your continuance in it. This being the case, I can only wish that it was otherwise.

I cannot suffer you, however, to close your public service without uniting with the satisfaction, which must arise in your own mind from a conscious rectitude, my most perfect persuasion, that you have deserved well of your country.

65. Knox's letter of resignation is in the *Washington Papers*. Timothy Pickering was nominated Secretary of War, Jan. 2, 1795, and confirmed by the Senate the same day.

On Jan. 1, 1795, Washington issued a proclamation, appointing Thursday, February 19, a day of public thanksgiving and prayer. The text is printed by Richardson in the *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*.

My personal knowledge of your exertions, while it authorizes me to hold this language, justifies the sincere friendship which I have ever borne for you, and which will accompany you in every situation of life. being with Affecte. regard, always Yours.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, March 10, 1795.

Sir: Congress having closed their late session without coming to any specified determination with respect to the Georgia sale of Lands and the application for the extinguishment of the Indian rights to those Lands; and not having expressed any sentiment respecting the predatory war between the Southern Indians and the southern and south western frontiers of these United States, and the desire of the latter to institute offensive measures; it has become indispensably necessary for the Executive to take up the subject upon a full and comprehensive scale, that some systematic plan may be resolved on and steadily pursued during the recess.

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To this end, it is my desire that you would select all the letters of recent date wch. have been received from the Governors of Georgia and the South western Territory, with their enclosures; as also those which have in like manner been received from the officer commanding the U. States' troops in the southern quarter, together with the letters of the Indian Agent there and Major Freeman, and from a careful perusal of the whole, and as they stand connected with Spanish policy, state the several points on which the decision of the Executive is necessary; and let me know the earliest day you can have it ready for presentation, that the heads of Departments may be summoned

in order to consider the same.

It may not be amiss, at the same time, to examine all the Laws, relative to this subject, which were passed at the last, or at any former session; that no information, or explanation of the sense of Government on this important matter, may be wanting.²⁰

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, March 11, 1795.

Sir: It has been reported to me by The Secretary of State, that among the laws of the last Session of Congress are several, which require the immediate acting of

20. From a press copy of the original in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

the President; and he has enumerated those, of which a list annexed,²¹ as belonging to your Department. It is therefore my desire, that you lay before me, as soon as may be convenient, the mode, which appears best for executing them, and that you note such of them, as have been already executed. If any of those laws contain powers to be exercised by the President, not immediately, but at a future day and eventually only, you will distinguish them in your Report to me.²²

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21. The list of the acts referred to is also copied on the draft as follows:

“An Act to authorize the President to call out and station a corps of Militia in the four western Counties of Pennsylvania for a limited time.”

“An Act for continuing and regulating the military establishment of the United States, and for repealing sundry Acts heretofore passed on that subject.”

“An Act making provision for the purposes of Trade with the Indians.”

The same letter was sent to the Secretary of the Treasury with the following list of laws:

“An act authorising a Loan of two millions of Dollars.”

“An act providing for the payment of certain instalments of foreign debts; and of the third instalments due on a loan made of the Bank of the United States.”

“An act authorising the payment of four thousand Dollars for the use of the Daughters of the late Count de Grasse.”

“An act to provide some present relief to the officers of Government and other citizens who have suffered in their property by the insurgents in the western Counties of Pennsylvania.”

“An act making further provision for the support of public credit, and for the redemption of the public Debt.”

“An act making further appropriations for the military and naval establishments, and for the support of Government.”

“An act to authorize a grant of Lands to the French Inhabitants of Gallipolis, and for other purposes therein mentioned.”

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“An act for the reimbursement of a Loan authorized by an act of the last session of Congress.”

The original of this letter and list are in the Connecticut Historical Society.

22. The draft is in the writing of a clerk in the Department of State.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, March 18, 1795.

Sir: On considering that part of your letter of the 29 instt. which relates to the establishment of a Post at Presqu' Isle I have no hesitation in giving it as my opinion that the position is eligable, in several points of view, and that the United Statesought to fix one there. The doubt I have is, from whence, in the reduced, and reducing state of the Legion, and the uncertainty of the negotiation of Peace with the Western Indians a competent force is to be obtain'd to possess and garrison it. On the last of these points a report will be expected from you.

29. March 6. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 20 Washington signed a permit for the exportation of military stores according to the Act of Congress of Mar. 3, 1795; but no destination is given. An official contemporary copy of this permit, and also of the invoice of stores exported, is in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 21 Washington signed a warrant to the Secretary of the Treasury, empowering him “or any other person or persons to borrow on behalf of the United States of the Bank of the United States or any other body or bodies politic, person or persons, any sum not exceeding in the whole five hundred thousand Dollars, and to make or cause to be made for that purpose such contract or contracts as shall be necessary for the Interest of the

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said States.” This by virtue of the act of March 3 “making further appropriations for the military and naval establishments and for the support of Government.” This warrant is entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.